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The Northwest
Farmer

Master Farmer

Volume 1

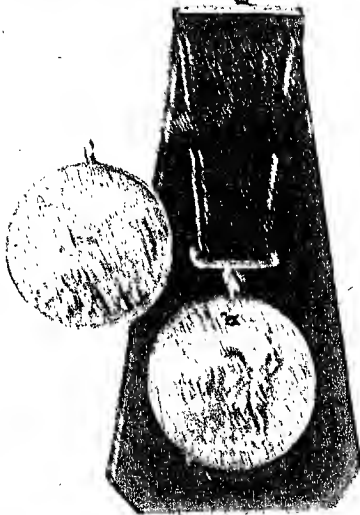
Chas. W. Johnson, Editor

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Albany, Saskatchewan
The Master Farmer is a monthly publication of the
Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, Ltd., and is published
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Albany, Saskatchewan
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F · O · R · F · W · O · R · D

Solid dignity attaches to the master craftsman in any legitimate line of human activity and surely that dignity is enhanced in the case of the Master Farmer, past master in "the first and most respectable of all the arts."

Probably no single movement has done more to advance the cause of scientific husbandry than the "Master Farmer" Movement which may truly be said to open a new chapter in Canadian agriculture.

Since its introduction into Canada in June, 1930, by "The New West Farmer," a wide spread interest has been aroused and both press and public have come to a higher appreciation of the results to be achieved by intelligent application of farming's governing principles. Industry goes far and accomplishes much, but industry alone will not make the man a master of his craft. Intelligence, foresight, sound judgment and skilful planning are as essential to success in farming as in any other branch of commercial or industrial enterprise, and the man who wins recognition in that particular sphere deserves respect as the builder with his own hands of the edifice of a life well spent.

It is extremely gratifying to find two of British Columbia's farmers on the Master Group for 1931, and warm congratulations are extended to all Master Farmers, not alone for their excellence as farmers but for the integrity of character and steadfastness which have their part in the award.

When it is borne in mind that the title of "Master Farmer" is not won in competition, that it is conferred only upon men selected by their friends or neighbors for outstanding merit and ability; that it comes only to men who have applied themselves diligently to farming as a chosen profession and

been able to realize what it means to those upon whom the accolade has fallen.

I am only a visitor on the soil, born and bred on the farm, with no intimate knowledge which enables me to fully appreciate the enterprise and self-reliance and tireless industry of the man who achieves the distinction of "Master Farmer."



British Columbia's agricultural potentialities are well known. We lead the Dominion in our dairy production, in our stock raising and poultry raising. Of all our farms, ninety per cent are owned by the farmer. One of the most serious aspects of the situation in this Province is the increasing dairy farming and dairy production which shows to be ideally suited to the development of this Province. In fact there is no reason why Canada should not aspire to world leadership in dairy produce. In this connection the Master Farmer Movement has come a long way. The success of the Master Farmer movement may be to cause every farmer in Canada to conduct their farms and to order their lives and conduct with them, to allow that they in turn may become acknowledged

leaders, to share their knowledge and impart their wisdom and their skill. To effect a general improvement in farming methods and practices in employment, the status of farming as one of the mainstays of the world's activities, the Master Farmer of Canada are by example, a noble and inspiring, a high way to humanity.

W. H. H. H.

The • Master • Farmer • Movement

The Master Farmer Movement is a means for recognizing farmers who have achieved distinction as farmers. Home is clean and efficient. Designed to encourage excellence in farming, a contest not a competition, no farmer is allowed to enter his own application for the award but must be nominated by his fellow neighbors as a candidate for the medal. The award seeks the man

Award is held by the Master Farmer society and only once on the last day of the year. The booklet, which is sent to the award, calls for a high standard of farming and citizenship. It also states the thoroughness that is made into the award, methods and awards to each candidate.

It is with a good deal of pride and satisfaction that The Nor-West Farmer and Farm & Home societies beneath a brief review of the achievements of the Master Farmer of 1951. And on succeeding years the Master Farmers of 1950 are also shown over, with a new words describing their accomplishments. Last year was the first time in the history of Canadian agriculture that farmers had been named Master Farmer of the year. There are now eleven Master Farmers in Canada, five in Manitoba, five in Saskatchewan, and in Alberta and British Columbia. These men have been selected from a total of 500 candidates nominated over the last Western provinces. One nominated farmer automatically becomes a candidate from year to year, until he fails to qualify for the award. In choosing his name from the nomination list, it is clear therefore that the Master Farmer Movement is not a one year proposition but on the contrary a man must have several years of hard work and good farming and good citizenship as a standard before he is eligible to be nominated for the award. He does not qualify the first year he has the privilege of going on for another year or two, he must give to the Master Farmer standard of excellence.

The Movement was first started in the United States in 1915 and has since been carried on by several farm groups in that country. It became a national movement when The Nor-West Farmer introduced its nomination to Canada in 1929 and awarded the first medals in Canada in 1930.

Now a medal as to how the awards are finally decided. Following the nomination of a candidate by his fellow neighbors, the candidate is sent a Master Farmer Questionnaire containing 200 questions covering all phases of his farming

operations, his home, the education and training of his children and his contribution to the life of the community in which he lives. Later in the season he is personally visited by an editorial representative of The Nor-West Farmer and Farm & Home who scores the candidate according to the official score card already mentioned. T. L. Townsend, Associate Editor, made the personal visits to candidates in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, while H. B. Smith, Special Staff Writer, called on the candidates in B.C. After this preliminary survey has been completed several of the highest scoring candidates are visited by the awards committees in the respective provinces who make the final decisions.

The provincial Master Farmer Awards Committees who have contributed to the successful conduct of the Master Farmer programme are, alphabetically, Alberta: H. A. Craig, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Dr. E. A. Howes, Dean, College of Agriculture, University of Alberta; Dr. W. H. Fairfield, Superintendent, Dominion Experimental Station, Lethbridge, British Columbia (where the Movement was introduced this year); J. B. Munro, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; F. M. Clement, Dean, College of Agriculture, University of British Columbia. Manitoba: J. H. Evans, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; T. J. Harrison, Assistant Grain Commissioner; N. C. McKay, Director of Extension, Saskatchewan: F. H. Auld, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; A. M. Shaw, Dean, College of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan; John G. Rayner, Director of Extension. The Editor of The Nor-West Farmer and Farm & Home acted on all four committees.

It is specially interesting to note that the size of farm operated by the 1951 group varies from 150 acres to 4,540 acres, and that the six Master Farmers have been farming an average of 28½ years while their average wealth is \$81,550, according to their own statements. Of the sixteen Master Farmers honored so far in Canada, 15 were born on farms; six began as homesteaders, they have been farming an average of 27½ years, average wealth is \$65,590; farm an average of 972 acres, average age is 34 years, nine have complete water systems in their homes, nine have electric lights, 14 have radios; all have motor cars and telephone; 12 use tractors, one having three, eight use motor trucks.

All Master Farmers give their wives and families full credit for the indispensable part they have played in helping them to qualify for the Medal.





*Master Farmer Andrew Anderson,
Alaska, Saskatchewan.*



*Master Farmer Stuart Gellie,
Harmsworth, Manitoba.*

M of C

Twenty-one years ago Master Farmer Andrew Anderson homesteaded on his present location. The modern residence is set in an extensive plantation of trees, shrubs, flowers, and fruit and vegetable gardens comprising some five acres in all. Fogelvik Farm now totals 4,540 acres and is devoted almost entirely to grain growing. Sufficient hogs, cattle, poultry, milk, butter, cream, eggs, vegetables and fruits are produced for home use, and to spare. Although Mr. Anderson's post office address is Alsask, Sask., his main farming operations are carried on in Alberta. He was born in Sweden in 1871 and began farming there in 1907.

Wheat and oats are the main crops, but sweet clover, brome grass and a small acreage of alfalfa are also grown. This farm is operated in three farm units, with a man in charge of each. Hired men are kept throughout the year. Mr. Anderson operates a combine, swather, threshing outfit, three tractors, two motor cars, and a full line of other implements, blacksmith and repair shops fully equipped. Sixty head of horses kept in excellent working condition do a good deal of the farm work. Large amounts of seed are carried over from year to year.

Mr. Anderson has one daughter who has received a college education. He is school trustee, active in the local Board of Trade, Agricultural Society, and Field Husbandry and Horticultural Associations.

Born and raised on a Scottish farm Master Farmer Stuart Gellie acquired his present half-section farm at Harmsworth, Man., in 1908. He carries on a mixed farming programme, producing wheat, oats, barley, Shorthorns, Clydesdales and Barred Rocks. Definite crop rotations are followed. Brome grass and sweet clover are grown for pasture crops and the practice of rotating the pastures, that is, moving stock from pasture to pasture at intervals, is followed. Barnyard manure is spread on the fields in winter at the rate of six loads per acre. His main soil-building programme is based upon barnyard manure and sweet clover.

The farmstead has a well-kept and comfortable appearance. Bush fruits and vegetables are grown for home use and the garden together with flowers mark the farm as a real home. In addition to the home farm Mr. Gellie owns other farms in Manitoba, totalling 1,120 acres in all. He operates a threshing outfit, a tractor and a full line of necessary implements. He has made a definite success as a farmer and citizen and is now 61 years of age.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Gellie take a leading part in boys' and girls' club work in the district and Mr. Gellie has served several years as director of the Manitoba Wheat Pool, holds an office in the Church, Consumers Cooperative, Beef Ring, Horse Breeders' Club and Agricultural Society.



This scene shows Master Farmer Stuart Gellie's attractive farmstead as seen from the highway and looking westward. His farm is near Harmsworth, Man. The windbreak suggested at the right provides ample shelter.



*Master Farmer John R. Hume,
Souris, Manitoba.*



*Master Farmer John Mole,
Ladner, B.C.*

M.F.C.

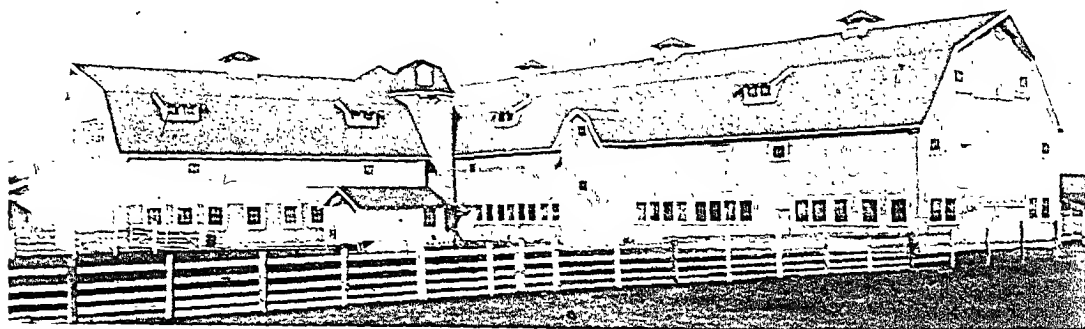
John R. Hume, proprietor of Abergeldie Stock Farm, Souris, Man., has been operating his present 640-acre farm since purchasing it in 1891. Managed by father and son - an only son - this farm is an exceptionally neat and well-balanced mixed farm. The well-kept residence and stables and other buildings are located on the eastern boundary of the section at the halfway point and there is a lane extending the full mile across the farm to the western boundary. Regular fields ranging from 50 to 85 acres are fenced on either side of the lane.

A definite rotation of crops is followed. Sweet clover and corn are grown in addition to the common grains. Soil drifting on summerfallow is prevented by spreading barnyard manure on the field during the previous winter. Pure bred Aberdeen-Angus, Shropshires, Yorkshires and Barred Rocks, together with grade horses which supply the farm power, are raised. Cash crops are live stock and wheat.

Master Farmer Hume was born in England 61 years ago. He is chairman of the Church Board, director of the Hospital Association, Cattle Breeders' Association and Provincial Winter Fair. He served as president of the Cattle Breeders' Association and vice-president of the Brandon Winter Fair.

Master Farmer John Mole, owner of Merrifield Stock Farm, Ladner, B.C., is a native of British Columbia, having been born and raised on his father's farm which he rented and started to farm for himself at 24 years of age. That was in 1906. In 1915 he tried his hand at farming in Alberta, but later settled on his present 212-acre dairy farm in the Fraser Delta area. This farm now has a modern residence, with attractive grounds, and a complete and up-to-date barn with two silos and storage space for huge quantities of hay and grain. The stable accommodates thirty cows, most of which are pure bred Holsteins, as well as having bull pens and space for young stock. It is equipped with litter and feed carriers, mechanical milker and water bowls. The average production per cow approximates 12,000 lbs. per year. Milk is the main source of revenue but clover and timothy, canning peas and oats are sold as cash crops. He keeps a few sheep and some poultry. Seven horses and a 10-20 tractor supply the farm power.

Mr. Mole holds an office in the Church and Farmers' Co-operative and both he and Mrs. Mole take an active part in all community affairs. There are two daughters and one son in the family.



Modern dairy barn (main barn 148 x 58 ft., wing 58 x 66 ft.) on the farm of Master Farmer John Mole & Son, Ladner, B.C.



*Master Farmer Oscar Moorhouse,
Carceland, Alberta*



*Master Farmer Leonard F. Solly,
Westholme, V.I., B.C.*

Oscar Moorhouse has been ranching and farming in Alberta since 1900, and in fact homesteaded in 1888, as a young lad 18 years of age, having come West from Ontario where he was born and raised on his father's farm. In 1914 he began farming on his present half-section farm near Carceland, Alta. He has built up a fully modern home surrounded by trees, shrubs and flowers. Everything about his farm is of high quality. A herd of pure bred Shorthorns is being established with choice foundation stock; a remarkably uniform flock of high grade Shropshires built up from a pet lamb given his son 19 years ago is especially noteworthy; 125 good Barred Rocks, turkeys, and Yorkshires make up a full line of revenue producers. He also keeps a few colonies of bees.

Eight horses of good quality supply the farm power, and a motor car provides transportation for business and pleasure. A gas engine, electric motor and appliances lighten labor. Crops are clean and the farm is well tilled. Mr. Moorhouse still has a good sized field of native prairie grass adjacent to the stable for pasture.

Wheat, barley, oats, alfalfa, brome, potatoes, and a full list of bush fruits and vegetables are included in the crops grown. Wheat, live stock and the products of the poultry yards are cash crops.

Master Farmer Moorhouse holds an office in his Church, is active in boys' and girls' club work and the Farmers' Organization. He has one son who is attending university.

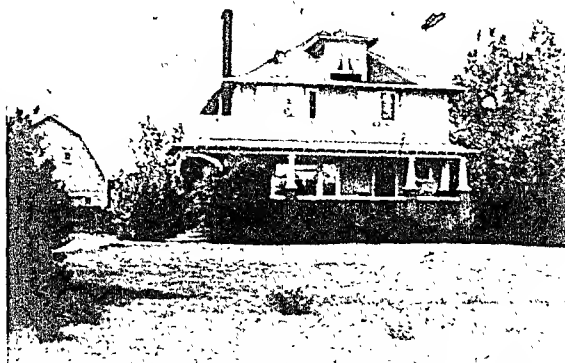
Master Farmer L. F. Solly operates a specialized mixed farm at Westholme on the east coast of Vancouver Island, B.C. He was born and raised in the city of Victoria and started to farm at the age of 22 in the year 1907. His farm comprises 150 acres, but only some 55 acres are under crop. Most of the cultivated land is low-lying bottom land or peaty soil which under Mr. Solly's methods of cultivation and fertilization produces enormous yields. For example, his potatoes have yielded 25 tons or 825 bushels per acre for the past two years. The residence and poultry plant are built on the hillside overlooking this fertile valley.

Poultry breeding is the leading speciality on this farm and consists of producing hatching eggs, baby chicks and breeding stock from select breeding flocks of White Wyandottes and White Leghorns. Approximately 3,500 laying hens and males are kept through the winter and from the incubator capacity of 55,000 eggs, some 5,000 chicks are raised, the balance being sold. The dairy herd of twelve

cows is made up of pure bred Holsteins and Jerseys. The milk production in 1950 averaged 12,509 lbs. and 9,465 lbs. respectively.

Soiling crops are fed in summer, no pasture being available. Four brood sows are kept, the litters sold as weaners.

Mr. Solly has two daughters, ages six and seven. He is Church Warden and a member of the boards of the local Chamber of Commerce, Agricultural Society and Hospital Association.



Modern residence of Master Farmer Oscar Moorhouse's farm, Carceland, Alta



C • O • M • M • E • N • T

That the support of the press, daily and weekly, has been generously given to the Master Farmer Movement in publishing a record of the achievements of the Master Farmers in their respective provinces and districts is indicated by the clippings shown above.

With the public press taking this helpful attitude toward the Master Farmer Movement, its benefits to agriculture at large will be immeasurably greater than would otherwise be the case. This contribution is greatly appreciated by the Master Farmers themselves as well as by The Nor' West Farmer and Farm & Home.

Helpful and favorable comment has been received from many leaders in agriculture, education, business and industry throughout Canada who have had the opportunity to study the achievements of Master Farmers as published a year ago in the first edition of "Master Farmers of Canada."

Successing paragraphs carry extracts from a few of such letters:

"I am sure that the work done through The Nor' West Farmer in this matter will be of fundamental importance in stimulating the best methods of farming on the prairies." *D. C. W. B. B. B.*





Master Farmer Fred H. Armstrong,
Carman, Manitoba.



Master Farmer Richard Ballhorn,
Wetaskiwin, Alberta.



Master Farmer T. J. Graham,
Pennant, Saskatchewan.

MASTER FARMERS



Master Farmer W. H. Harvey,
Flaxcombe, Saskatchewan.



Master Farmer Peter S. Hornseth,
Nipawin, Saskatchewan.

Fred H. Armstrong operates a 960-acre mixed farm near Carman, Man. Of Irish descent he was born on his father's Ontario farm in 1881. Shortly after this date his parents settled in the Carman district. He grows wheat, oats, barley, sweet clover and brome grass; breeds high grade Shorthorns, pure bred Yorkshires and feeds hogs and steers each winter. Horses and a tractor are used for power. He has served as councillor and reeve of his municipality. Since receiving the Master Farmer Medal he has been nominated as a candidate for the Manitoba Legislature. He has three sons and one daughter.

Richard Ballhorn, Wetaskiwin, Alta., is a mixed farmer. On his 800-acre farm he breeds pure bred Shorthorns, also raises a good many hogs and sheep and is known as a successful live stock feeder. Born and raised in the lowa-corn-belt he started on his present farm in 1910 as a young man 25 years of age. A tractor supplements his horse-power and a motor truck is used extensively in marketing live stock. The home is modern and set in attractive grounds. He is reeve of his municipality and has served as president of the Wetaskiwin Board of Trade. He has one son.

T. J. Graham farms 1,200-acres at Pennant, Sask. It is a grain country but he raises and feeds cattle and sheep in a semi-ranch fashion. Born on a farm in Ireland, he homesteaded at Sintaluta, Sask., in 1896 and settled on his present site in 1912. He maintains a park for deer, swans, wild geese, etc. and another hobby is growing small fruits. Served as chairman of school board for 25 years, is a member of the Saskatchewan Research Council, active in boys' and girls' work. He has three sons and two daughters.

W. H. Harvey, Flaxcombe, Sask. is another grain farmer who keeps a small herd of pure bred Holsteins and raises sufficient hogs and poultry for home needs. With two sons (W. H. Harvey & Sons) he operates 1,760-acres. Twelve horses, two tractors, one combine, a motor truck and full line of other implements are used. He was born and raised on an Ontario farm and holds an Associate Diploma from the O.A.C., dated 1882. For six years he was a member of the Saskatchewan Legislature, was the first reeve in his municipality, and first chairman of the local consolidated school board. Has two daughters and two sons.

Peter S. Hornseth, the most northerly Master Farmer in the world, operates a 960-acre farm at Nipawin, Saskatchewan. Wheat is the main crop but he raises hogs and cattle. Eight horses and two tractors do the farm work. He has a complete elevator in his barnyard which greatly facilitates handling the crop. He has planted 30,000 trees, including a good sprinkling of evergreens, around his farm. He served as councillor, is school trustee, and belongs to the agricultural society, co-operative organizations. Born in Norway, in 1884. Has a family of five.



*Master Farmer Frank W. McIntosh,
Manitou, Manitoba.*



*Master Farmer Addison C. Shantz,
Guernsey, Saskatchewan.*



*Master Farmer George A. Stutt,
Vandura, Saskatchewan.*

OF CANADA - 1930

Frank W. McIntosh is a Southern Manitoba mixed farmer operating a section of land near Manitou. He grows wheat, oats, barley, brome grass, sweet clover and alfalfa and breeds pure bred Shorthorns, Shropshires and Yorkshires, and good poultry. One of the finest spruce shelter belts in Western Canada shelters and beautifies the farmstead. Mr. McIntosh is reeve of the municipality, he has served as school trustee, is active in boys' and girls' work and since receiving the Master Farmer Medal has been nominated as candidate for the Manitoba Legislature.

A. C. Shantz, Guernsey, Sask., is a mixed farmer with 1,120 acres under cultivation, the first quarter of which he homesteaded in 1905. The soil is light and he is gradually working into dairying, and into growing his own grass and clover seeds. Western rye grass and sweet clover are used for hay and pasture, and sunflowers for silage. Cattle, poultry and hogs are of good quality. He uses a motor truck and intends getting a tractor when his three sons get old enough to operate it. He is chairman of the school board, councillor and vice-president of the telephone board.

George A. Stutt of Vandura, Sask., is best known as a breeder of Clydesdale horses. Coming from Bruce County, he homesteaded on his present site in 1896. Shorthorn cattle and Yorkshire hogs are raised on his 770-acre farm. Horses do most of the farm work, but a light tractor and truck are also used. Wheat is the main cash crop. Mr. Stutt has served as president of the Saskatchewan Clydesdale Breeders' Club; school trustee, active in boys' and girls' live stock club work and is president of the Agricultural Society. There are three sons and three daughters.

Percy A. Switzer, Lacombe, Alta., homesteaded on his 640-acre mixed farm where he now breeds pure bred Shorthorn cattle, also good hogs, horses and poultry. Wheat, barley, oats, sweet clover, western rye grass, timothy and brome grass are the crops grown. Horses, assisted by a tractor in busy seasons, do the farm work. Mr. Switzer is president of the local U.F.W.; president of the Central Alberta Shorthorn Club; a supporter of co-operative marketing; boys' and girls' club work; and active in the church and community affairs. He has four sons and three daughters.

In 1895 Wellesley White settled on his present farm at Thornhill, Southern Manitoba. It is now operated by father and son. He, too, is a mixed farmer, breeding pure bred Shorthorns, Yorkshires, and Barred Rocks. Twelve horses and a tractor and motor truck provide the power. He also has a grain elevator for storing and handling grain. The large lawn, flower borders, windbreaks and fruit garden make this one of Manitoba's most attractive farms. Mr. White has served as secretary and trustee of the school and takes an active part in farmers' organizations.



*Master Farmer Percy A. Switzer,
Lacombe, Alberta.*



*Master Farmer Wellesley White,
Thornhill, Manitoba.*

MASTER FARMER SCORE CARD

	Possible Score		Possible Score
A. OPERATION AND ORGANIZATION OF FARM 200 Points		C. BUSINESS METHODS 500 Points	
1. Layout of fields, location of farmstead and arrangement of buildings for economical operation	20	1. Financial success, relation of income to investment	80
2. Crops, yield, purity and suitability of varieties	35	2. Business reputation	70
3. Preventative measures against insects, plant diseases, etc.	20	3. Efficient use of capital	60
4. Maintenance of soil fertility, and weed control	20	4. Marketing methods and efficiency	50
5. Cropping system for adaptation to:		5. Methods of accounting	20
(a) Soils and markets	15	6. Building for future:	
(b) Efficient use of man, horse and mechanical power	50	(a) With regard to family and farm	20
6. Adequate machinery and repair of same.	20	(b) With regard to community	20
7. Live stock (including poultry):		D. HOME LIFE 250 Points	
(a) Quality, quantity and adaptability	40	1. Reputation as husband and father	75
(b) Feeding and Management	40	2. Education and training of children	60
8. Food-supplies produced on farm	20	3. Labor-saving devices in home	50
B. GENERAL APPEARANCE AND UPRIGHT OF FARM 60 Points		4. House convenient, comfortable, sanitary, pleasant surroundings	40
1. Adequate buildings, general appearance and repair	15	5. Library (books, magazines, newspapers, farm journals) and facilities for musical training	25
2. Freedom from weeds, rubbish, etc.	15	E. CITIZENSHIP 150 Points	
3. General tidiness (everything in its place)	10	1. Neighborliness	50
4. Condition of fences, roads, and lanes on farm	10	2. Interest in church and school	40
5. Adequate windbreaks, ornamental plantings, etc.	10	3. Interest in boys' and girls' clubs and other community work	40
		4. Interest in local, provincial and national government	20
		Total	1,000

Extra points may be allotted for exceptional merit in a special field of activity.

The Master Farmer Questionnaire

Each candidate is asked to complete the Master Farmer Questionnaire of 200 questions inquiring into every phase of his farming operations, his home-building program and his service to the community. These facts, supplemented by personal visits to the candidates provide not only the material to which the above score is applied, but also a veritable encyclopedia on farm management.



An artificial lake in one corner of the well kept grounds surrounding Master Farmer Andrew Anderson's residence on his farm at Ulsask, Sask.